The Nexus

A selwyn newspaper reborn: by students, for students

VERITAS

Suggestions - Interviews - Reports - Events - Achievments - Entertainement

"Gone are the days when one could stand in front of the glass pondering what flavour chips to buy, or debating between feelings for a muffin or a sponge cake."

- Andrew Zahkari, 10A

"The robot is probably best described as clumsy-looking yet ingenious and effective. There were a few problems and obstacles at the start of the competition and the robot often scored no points. Eventually, the team was able to get the robot working effectively and managed to get 5th place in the game."

- Sung Jun Bae, 11B

"The team worked very hard and gave their 100% in every game. With the great coaching of Mr. Paoletti, the team gradually improved to a playoff contestant team."

- Bronson Kiu, 11B

"... bringing home multiple All-Star titles. A season of incessant practice and training comes to an end with everyone performing very well throughout the whole season. Personally, after being on the wrestling team for 4 seasons and a few days (from my elementary days) and finally graduating, it's going to be something I won't forget."

- Chris Wong, 11C

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08/03/05

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SCHOOL LIFE

Selwyn Robotics Places 7th Overall

TWENTY-ONE SCHOOLS took part in this year's robotics competition, which took place from February 17th to 19th at John Rennie High School. This year's game was called Targeau-Bonseye, and it consisted of a rotating round table on which the robots must shoot or dump their projectiles in order to score points. The closer to the center of the table you are, the more points you get. In fact, if a robot lands a projectile in the middle, that team's score will be doubled. An interesting twist was that schools had to create their own projectiles, in contrast to previous years when schools would be given them; for example, tennis balls to shoot. Robots from four different schools play at the same time in teams of two. However, each robot has its own space and thus there are no interaction between the robots, another unique feature in this year's competition.

The Selwyn team worked hard all year long to design and construct the robot and projectiles. The robot was designed to dump a tall rack with around two hundred coat hangers (the projectiles), thus scoring a lot of points with one shot – it was all or nothing. The robot is probably best described as clumsy-looking yet ingenious and effective. There were a few problems and obstacles at the start of the competition, and the robot often scored no points. Eventually, the team was able to get the robot working effectively and managed to get 5th place in the game. This was disappointing for the twenty-six students in robotics as last year they placed first and had hoped to do just as well.

...clumsy-looking yet ingenious and effective.

The robotics competition is not just about the robot. In fact, the robot is only one of the many other parts of the robotics project. The competition includes: video, website, journal, and kiosk as well as the robot. The video team makes a short film documenting the construction of the robot, website makes a site, kiosk makes a display, and journal logs an accurate and complete diary of all the events that have taken place throughout the entire building period. Notable achievements are 5th place for the website (team lead by Kyle Spiller,) and 5th place for the journal (made by Gavin Kenneally.) With all of these categories factored in, Selwyn placed 7th overall in the competition.

As a side note: robotics is probably the best arts option Selwyn has to offer as there are many different aspects to the program and a lot of teamwork. I'd recommend people to try it next year if possible. But, if you plan to join Robotics, you have to plan to work and put some effort in to get anything out of the program. Otherwise, I would recommend bridge, which is another good arts option.

Overall, the three-day competition was a lot of fun and full of excitement. There's a nice ambiance at these competitions, pretty lights, loud music, over-excited cheering audience, and a lot of spirit. The competition ran smoothly, but I found that the game wasn't as exciting to watch. Also, the same song was repeated over and over again, and a few other minor details made it not as pleasant. Personally, I did not enjoy this year's competition as much as in previous years, even though most of the participants highly enjoyed the competition. As Kyle Spiller said, "I was disappointed with the results, but the competition was fun and well worth the effort."

-Sung Jun Bae

Do Students Really Benefit From Computers?

HONORABLE JUDGE, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we live in the fully wired classroom where a click of a button gives us access to virtually all information ever gathered by man. We, today's students, are at the vanguard of technology. We are, indeed, the computer generation. But if that's so, why is it that I believe so strongly in the aphorism: "To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer?" Well, it's because in the mad rush to stay competitive among schools, educators have overestimated the benefits of this technology. In doing so, we are losing sight of the true objective of education. Let's look critically at three principal rationales for giving computers such a primary role in schools:

1.) Firstly, we are told computers enhance the entire curriculum. But do they really? How do I improve my grasp of Macbeth by using a keyboard to take notes? Am I learning better French if my assignments are e-mailed to me? And just between you and me, how often do we use our laptops to play MSN messenger and NFL blitz during class?

2.) Secondly, school computers are justified by the need to acquire skills which will be crucial in our future careers. This is clearly absurd. We attend school for a well rounded education, not to learn job skills. If that were the case, why not teach us how to write business memos and take clients out golfing? Our generation has grown up with computers: we will use them throughout our lives whether or not they are part of our curriculum. In the meantime, I have only one history class this year, and three which deal with computers. Personally, I would prefer to understand what has shaped our world rather than becoming an expert at Excel spreadsheets.

3.) Finally, we are constantly reminded that Canada must embrace new technologies in order to remain globally competitive. Okay, but at what cost? Let me remind you that Germany in the 1930's had the most rigorous and advanced science curriculum of any nation. And we are painfully aware of where that led. So, We must not pursue technology just for its own sake. Our computers teach us to value information and data above knowledge and wisdom and imagination. Most problems facing the world today, such as genocide in Darfur, or the threat of global terrorism, have nothing to do with a lack of information. These problems will **not** be solved by a generation highly skilled in Visual Basic.

What solution do I propose to do about this? Simply put, I would like to see educators cease making gods out of computers. Let's recognize them as the tools that they are. We know that cars are great for getting around, for example, but they also congest our streets and pollute our air. In the same way, let's discuss realistically the cons as well as pros of computers in the classroom . Could some part of the large sums spent on computer programs be better used elsewhere? If parents, students and educators all begin to examine the use of computers critically, we just might be able to improve our world without destroying the things we value most. After all, we want to incorporate computers into our lives and not incorporate our lives into computers. We are told we are the wired generation. But right now, I feel that this wire of technology is strung way too tightly around our necks.

-Patrick Levy

QAIS Speech – Courage

Topic – It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else.

HAVE YOU EVER had dreams? Dreams of ambition, of success, of happiness? Of course you do. Everyone has dreams to aspire to, a goal they wish to reach as one of their most important accomplishments in their life, whether it be about schoolwork, their personal life, or what most young people are confused about, their future. Now, take all of that, take all of times you've said to yourself "I'm going to make that dream come true" or, "I'm gonna make that dream a reality". Then take these o-so incredible dreams, and show them to someone else.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed..."

Ladies and Gentlemen, honorable judges, I am here to persuade to you

how it does, in fact, take a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else, as so famously said by Erma Bombeck.

So why does it take so much courage, to mutter those words that tell someone what our dreams are like? Well, to tell someone our dreams, is like telling someone one of our most cherished secrets. We feel hesitant, fearful that the visions of what we want will be ridiculed at. With this feeling of insecurity, we keep our dreams to ourselves so that no one can see them. As an end result, because we are so afraid of what other people think, because we are so afraid of other people's criticism, because we are so afraid, that people will laugh out of cruelty when they hear you out, those dreams will stay exactly where they are. With you, for no one else to see.

You can't let this happen to you. Don't hide your dreams in the dark because you are afraid of all the insecurities of telling someone about them. You must take a stand, battle against the adversity, self-doubt and, fear. No one, and I mean no one, should be able to stop you from accomplishing your dreams, not your mother, your father, your teachers, or your friends. They shouldn't be going against your dreams; they should be supporting you, 100%.

Think of it this way: when Martin Luther King Jr., on August 28th 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. delivered his speech about equality and harmony with the black and white man, he told his dreams to all his fellow Americans. He told them, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal". Do you not think, that required immense amount of courage? To tell his vision of equality, justice and, brotherhood, to all his fellow Americans? Yes, it did take great deal of courage to say those words, but he pushed on.

Now, you're all probably asking, "Okay smart guy, what do you know about having dreams?" Well, just like every normal human being, I have dreams too. I want to be an artist. From the artwork I sometimes slave over for hours and hours, to the little humble doodles and sketches I have done in Math, History and yes, English class, I have only dreamed to be better. With every stroke of the pencil, with every erased mistake, I only strive to be the best I can be. If some people don't like it and criticize me for it, I will keep standing. I can't please everyone. With this dream, I must abandon all my doubt, insecurity and, fear as should you with your own dreams for that is the key, to have a dream become a reality. Then finally, when I finally realize my dream, with only courage invoked in my heart, I can show the world, without a shred of fear, my dreams.

–Brendan Cheong

Public Speaking

THIS YEAR was my first in Public Speaking, and I must say it proved to be quite an exciting one. The second week into the term we were already trying out for positions on the team that would represent Selwyn House at the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition (IISPSC) at Ridley College. Ben Wilner, already having two years of experience, was automatically on the team, leaving the remaining two spots to be filled by Joseph Kucera and myself. This all took place in early September, and the competition was to take place in late October (from the 20th to the 24th), giving us just under a month to prepare ourselves for the event. I think I might expound briefly on the nature of the competition, for next year Selwyn House is hosting the affair and I should like to give potential public speakers a chance to understand what it entails.

There are four categories of speechmaking at the IISPSC, each of which includes two or three events. Each participant must choose three events total in which he will compete, each of which must be in different categories, and his average score across all three events will determine his overall standing. The categories and their respective events are:

1. Impromptu Speaking / Extemporaneous Speaking
2. Persuasive Speaking / After Dinner Speaking
3. Parliamentary Debating / Radio Newscast
4. Drama / Interpretive Reading / Cross-Examination Debate

I have also prepared a brief description of the first four of these events just to give you an idea of what the competition is like:

Impromptu: One is given a piece of paper with three topics to choose from. He/she then has two minutes to prepare a three to five minute speech on the topic of his/her choice. The taking of notes is optional however; they may not be used when the speech is being delivered.

Extemporaneous: The Competitors are given a piece of paper with three topics to choose from, each of which pertains to current international events, that is to say events which occurred within six months prior to the competition. You then have thirty

minutes to prepare a three to five minute speech on the chosen topic.

Persuasive Speaking: You are expected is to present a seven to thirteen minute speech, prepared beforehand, whose objective is to persuade the audience (judges) about any topic of his/her choice. This speech must take the problem-solution approach—which mean the speaker must present a problem and propose a solution—though the persuasive element may be one or the other (i.e. persuading the audience that there is a problem, or persuading them that the solution presented is the correct one). Competitors may use both sides of a single three by five inch index card as a memory aid.

After Dinner Speaking: It is required that each participant presents a four to ten minute speech, prepared beforehand, whose objective is to entertain and inform the audience (judges) about any topic of choice. His/her speech must include a balance of informative content and humor. One must adopt a persona, that is to say that you must speak as someone else, and is to speak to an organization or focus on a group of the speakers choice as a guest speaker after dinner. Joe Kucera, for example, spoke as the fictional Marvin Gabbington III to the members of PSS (the Public Speaking Society). Competitors may use both sides of a single three by five inch index card as a memory aid.

Needless to say, we all spent a good deal of time preparing, memorizing, and practicing our events, and many a time I questioned whether it was worth the enormous amount of effort required. In the end, though, we all greatly enjoyed the experience. Our billets (the people whom you are assigned to stay with) were very nice people and excellent hosts. The environment and atmosphere was social though competitive, and the event provided the opportunity to meet and get acquainted with all sorts of interesting people from the world over. Participating countries include: Canada, the United States of America, England, Scotland, Bermuda, and Cyprus (I hope I haven't left any out). Despite the copious amount of extra work at the beginning of the year, I am definitely looking forward to participating next year.

After the IISPSC, things slow down in public speaking. The only other competition would be the Provincial championship, held at Loyola, which Bryan Altman participated in. He placed fourth and, due to the unwillingness of the third-place finisher to advance to the Nationals, had the opportunity to proceed further. He turned this down, however, because you are only allowed to qualify for the National's once, and he believed that he should accumulate more experience in the field before taking that single opening.

If you are interested in taking public speaking, you should know that it can be pretty boring if you don't get into one of the competitive events. All we do in class is practice oral exercises, like triple-speak, impromptu speaking, and various warm-ups, such as tongue twisters and other tongue and mouth exercises. If, however, you do participate in a competition, then you can expect to extract a great deal more pleasure from the course and I would most highly recommend it based on my experience so far.

- Robert Hinrichsen

Thanks

WE WOULD like to thank all students, faculty, and graduates who contributed; particularly from the Study School. Ideas and feedback are always welcome, as are articles for the spring issue. Send them to The Senior Newspaper Conference.

Editors:
Francesco Sacco
Harry Derek-Gurberg
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YOUR OPINIONS

Ninety-Five Theses For The Reformation

FIRST OFF, no student can fully appreciate their fortune in going to a school such as Selwyn, which offers outstanding avenues for, educational, recreational, athletic, or extracurricular purposes. The incredible facilities that came with the Speirs building, including two new computer labs, an underground gymnasium, and an underground tunnel connecting the Speirs building to the Macaulay building, brought welcomed change in the student's daily schedule. However, there are still bugs in the systems that are yet to be resolved. This is a healthy and constructive critique of those bugs.

In the new Speirs building, water fountains can be found on every floor and in the connecting tunnel. A new fountain has also been erected at the foot of the new staircase next to Coristine hall. The most excellent positioning of these water fountains encourages students to keep well hydrated while bustling between classes without delaying them, right? Wrong. Not only is the water almost always warm, but it frustratingly refuses to supply the thirsty supplicant with more water, regardless of the force used to push in the knob. One cannot reasonably re-hydrate quickly enough with these fountains. Understandably, some of the users are young elementary students who might have more difficulty with a water fountain pumping out 2 litres of water per minute than others, but that is why almost all water fountains release water quantity as a function of force applied (i.e. the harder you push, the more water you'll get). As for the temperature of the water (probably stagnant), it cannot be said with certainty, but most of the water in the pipes of the building—not being cooled by Montreal's fine frost as it is sitting inside—comes out before the chilled water residing in pipes outside can reach the fountain. It seems to be that only two decent water fountains exist in the entire Selwyn complex, both in Macaulay. Both stand in hollows in the wall, one in front of the Macaulay gym door, and the other in the basement by the locker rooms.

It seems to be that only two decent water fountains exist in the entire Selwyn complex, both in Macaulay.

And the vending machines. What happened to their original stock? It seems that the school is trying to implement a healthier diet by restricting the variety of purchasable snacks. Gone are the days when one could stand in front of the glass pondering what flavour chips to buy, or debating between feelings

for a muffin or a sponge cake. Now, none of these recess delicacies can be found, but in their stead we find, "Scooby-snacks" or "Lucky charms;" chewy, gooey sweetness. In all honesty, any claims of health issues concerning the contents of the vending machine can be instantly disregarded due to the chosen substitutes with dubious nutritional value. At least an explanation to this disappearance should be offered.

Whatever happened to the tunnel door on the Macaulay side? It seems to have been locked, bolted, and padlocked shut for quite a while now. And just when they had put a code box to allow student access! Now students are left with no choice but to take the front door of Macaulay, and trudge along the awkward new door configuration in front of Mr. Wearing's office (needless to say this locked door also posses a fire hazard). This odd arrangement of doors constipates all passer-bys and doesn't seem to have any purpose. It would be greatly appreciated and is greatly demanded that the outside door to the tunnel be reopened.

Talk of the tunnel door cannot be separated from discussions on the crossing rules at Selwyn. Understandably, the school has the students' best interest at heart, but the senior school should be capable enough of crossing a little-used street (in comparison with Sherbrooke just down the road) equipped with a crossing guard and a crosswalk. If Selwyn senior students are unable to cross a street safe and sound, then I believe Selwyn House should be more vigilant in picking its students.

Of course, none of these complaints are urgent, but rather observations made by the students who form the vast majority of users of the school's impressive and numerous facilities. These points are just remarks of some desired changes shared by the student body. With the privileges Selwyn students already hold, we can't complain, but some change would be nice.

-Andrew Zakhari

Sodexho or SodexNO?

BEFORE I BEGIN, I know that some people who know me will find it somewhat ironic that I am writing about food. For those who do not, here is a hint as to why: The names I have been called include skinny, skeleton, stick boy, little man, and countless others of the same genre. I will proudly shout from whatever available rooftop that I'm thin, I'm here, and...I enjoy a good meal as much as anybody else (it is a really rapid metabolism, I swear).

The problem, for any food lover, remains that the school food is verging on the execrable (very bad). One example is the gluttonous glob of goo that people have the audacity to refer to as macaroni and cheese. Even though I am not a big fan of cheese in any form, this vile concoction would repulse just about anyone. The texture reminds me of (warning: disgusting visual ahead) mucus and I do not imagine the taste is any better. Personally, the last time this was served I could not muster up the courage to even attempt it. Our so-called pizza has a different problem. It is somewhat edible, but calling it pizza is like referring to a hamburger patty as filet mignon. In fact, it is just bread with a thin layer of tomato paste and a sprinkling of dried spices. I could go on, but it is up to the reader to decide what they find delicious...or good...or edible...or putrid...or...

> ...the gluttonous glob of goo that people have the audacity to refer to as macaroni and cheese.

Do you ever feel that the school is like a prison? There may be a reason for that other than the intense feeling of confinement. Did you know that the catering company that prepares our food, Sodexho, also prepares the food in some prisons in the United States? However, the murderers and con artists get real pizza instead of the bread we get here. Sodexho is one of the largest food providers on the continent and they also happen to have one of the highest employee dissatisfaction and turnover rates of any corporation. (Have any of you noticed that there seems to be a new member of the kitchen staff every week?)

The school director's board is responsible for the health food crusade that has given us the not-so-pizza and the truly lacking vending machines. (Who wants to be horrendously overcharged for Lucky Charms?) I am not sure who is responsible for those super mini juice cups, but when is one of those ever enough? Does a juice box really cost that much more? From an environmental viewpoint, imagine how many plastic trees, in plastic forests died to create those insignificant cups.

In conclusion, my opinion on the food situation is a resounding Arrrggh!!!

Joseph Kucera

WORLD EVENTS

Wiping Away Ancient Boreal Forests

AN OLD COACH of mine recently asked me if I could write an article on an environmental issue for this new newspaper. He thought students at SHS would like to know what it 'takes' to become an 'environment-alist'. I thought about this for a while and accepted the request. After all, if I could inspire one student to take up the fight for the planet, my job would be that much easier.

Over a decade ago, I too roamed the halls of SHS, stumbling from early morn-ing class to early morning class in the fog of perpetual teenaged sleepiness. At the beginning of 1991, environmental issues were making headlines in newspapers around the world. There was hope in the air that the people of the planet were realizing their mistakes of the past and vowing to make substantial changes. I was inspired to do 'good' for the earth and initiated the first recycling program at the school, planted the trees that today flank the front entranceway to the Lucas building and began to work to raise awareness of environmental issues. Little did I know that 13 years later I would find myself running a national forest campaign at the world's largest environmental organization – Greenpeace.

Thinking back now I realize that it takes a lot more than planting a couple of trees and collecting paper waste and aluminum cans to "save the planet". Real fundamental change is what is needed to curb our negative impact on the environment. But each of us have to start somewhere and recycling programs, forest friendly paper products and driving less are all things that can start us walking down that 'environmental' path.

Part of my path takes me back and forth across the continent to protect North America's largest ancient forest – Canada's Boreal forest. The Boreal forest- What's that? What's going on there? Think back to geography class if you can.

The Boreal forest is the forest that Canadians think of when they think of 'Canada's wilderness' and the green swathe of land that extends out to the horizon. The Boreal forest stretches across the country, from the Alaskan border to Labrador and it sustains a rich cultural legacy. It is a source of sustenance for northern communities and indigenous peoples of Canada - First Nations and Métis. It is also home to hundreds of wide-ranging wildlife species, including moose, caribou, lynx, bears, wolves eagles, hawks, and owls. 30 per cent of North America's songbirds and 40 per cent of its waterfowl nest in the forests and wetlands. Because of its size and intactness, the Boreal forest is a major tool in the fight against climate change. The Boreal is also a forest that is being logged, clearcut in fact, to producer consumer products used by North Americans every day.

Consumer products like toilet paper, facial tissue and copy paper.

Yes it is true. Ancient forests like the Boreal are being flushed down toilets and thrown away every day by people across the continent. Many companies are implicated in this destruction including such paper giants as Kimberly-Clark, (maker of Kleenex brand tissue products) and Xerox (copy paper).

...if I could inspire one student to take up the fight for the planet, my job would be that much easier.

Clearcutting is a devastating form of logging where most if not all trees are removed from an area of forest. What's left behind is a barren landscape that can no longer support wildlife nor the northern communities and First Nations who directly rely upon these forests for their lives and livelihood. They are left with

little more than ransacked economies and devastated landscapes and communities. Not a pretty picture, huh?

There is some good news though. While Kimberly-Clark and Xerox continue to clearcut forests to create disposable products, other paper product companies have taken progressive steps to lessen their impact on these forests. Cascades, the 2nd largest manufacturer of tissue products in Canada has made a commitment to become ancient forest friendly by 2007 and over 80% of book publishers in Canada, like Random House, McClelland & Stewart and Harry Potter publisher Raincoast Books are printing books on forest friendly papers with high recycled contents. What's more, some ancient forest friendly and recycled tissue products are already sold in grocery and health food stores across North America and the demand and availability of these are climbing.

But to stop the destruction of ancient forests by companies like Kimberly-Clark is going to take a lot more work than politely convincing some publishers and tissue product manufacturers to reduce their impacts on these ecosystems. It takes major pressure campaigns to force huge companies like Kimberly-Clark to stop their forest destruction or lose market share.

It begins with consumers making smart decisions at the grocery store and continues with institutional customers like movie theatres, hotels and schools. And that's where it comes back to you and the teachers and staff of Selwyn House. You can make a difference for the planet by making Selwyn House the most environmentally friendly school it can be. Institutions like SHS have the responsibility to realize and then minimize their impacts on ecosystems like the Boreal and the communities and wildlife that depend on them. And all it takes is small groups of students to realize that they want to make a difference. You are those students.

-- Richard Brooks is a forests campaigner with Greenpeace Canada and former Head Prefect at Selwyn House – Class of 1992. More information about Kimberly-Clark, Kleenex and boreal forests is available at www.kleercut.net.

Briedis Bashes Bush

AFTER THE 2004 United States presidential election on November 2, many people are wondering how it is that George W. Bush won re-election. These include 49% of Americans (the 48% that voted for Kerry together with the 1% that voted for Nader) and indeed a great many more around the globe. It would seem that a man who uses words like "misunderestimate," and who goes on wild goose chases for fictitious weapons of mass destruction would be a shoo-in for the hall of one term presidents. A man who, according to popular opinion polls, lost all three debates, and issued propaganda which belittled his opponent's contribution to a war which he himself avoided quite deftly.

I do not use the term "ignorant" without proper justification.

The answer to how this happened is simple. Bush has succeeded in allying the votes of the ignorant (the largest group in the United States) with the money of the corporate rich and the proselytizing power of the Christian Right. To confirm this, you need look no further than the electoral map of red and blue states. While Kerry took the northeast and the west coast, the support for Bush rallied from the Deep South and from the heartland of the U.S. It is in these red states wherein live the rich oil companies, the bible toters and the lower half of the I.Q. bell curve.

First on the discussion list: the ignorant. Now let's be clear, I do not use the term "ignorant" without proper justification. I present statistics as my proof: according to exit polling, as many as 80% and more of voters with an M.B.A. or higher voted *against* Bush. Thus, as Bush won almost 52% of the overall vote, the majority of his votes came from people without at least an M.B.A. Even more impressively, according to a New York Times poll, two thirds of people who said they support Bush believed that weapons of mass destruction *had indeed been found* in Iraq. New York, the state that really has been hit by a terrorist attack voted against Bush, while heartland America (which is neither a major symbol of American power nor a large economic hub and is thus not a likely terrorism target) voted for Bush giving as their reason that he would best protect them from terrorist threats! This resulted from their susceptibility to the President's own terror warfare. He told them to be afraid and, because they had neither the knowledge nor the analytic ability to make their own decision, they did as ordered. They didn't stop and think why

terrorists would crash an airplane into a general store in a small Midwestern town when they could be blowing up larger, more powerfully symbolic American symbols of power and economic might. They simply accepted Bush's statements and became afraid. Even more disturbing is the fact that these people don't realize their ignorance and don't want to change. According to interviews and surveys, many ignorant U.S. southerners are *happy and proud* that they don't read and that they are uneducated. They use it to support their sense of patriotism. So not only are they sufficiently ignorant to vote for Bush, they are proud of it and determined not to change!

Then, there are the rich who get Bush's tax cuts, benefit from his economic plans, and are the few to benefit from the war in Iraq as their oil drilling revenues grow. These people financed Bush's campaign and brought votes from the upper economic classes to his side of the election.

Finally, you have the Christian Right, the influencers of the masses. There is something direly wrong when Catholic Bishops come out and denounce John Kerry as anti-catholic because of his positions on abortion and gay marriage causing large numbers of people vote for his opponent as a result. There is something seriously wrong when fanatical Christians spend Bush's first term traveling the United States making sure as many people around the U.S. as possible believe Bush is some kind of Messenger of God. Democrats cannot win these votes because they have been depicted as irreligious and Godless by the hypocritical right. Anti-intellectualism has overcome true Christianity, humanism and caring for people.

The ignorant, the rich, and the extreme Christian right are the ones that have combined to elect George W. Bush, the most unfit, unintelligent, unqualified, embarrassing, "misunderestimated", and poorest excuse for a presidential candidate to win a United States presidential election. It is a sad time in which these three groups find themselves at the helm of the last superpower in the world. An interesting four years are now likely to ensue with Republicans in control of the White House, the Senate, *and* the House of Representatives during a term when many important positions are to be filled. May God have mercy on us all.

-Jonas Briedis

Two Deaths

A DAY OR TWO after the twin towers collapsed in Manhattan, a Kirkland man named John Bauer -- the erstwhile president of Lakeshore hockey -- murdered his three children, wife, father-in-law, and a business associate in cold blood. In normal times, as evinced by the public's sustained, horrified reaction to the Toope murders some years before, such carnage would have smeared the op-ed page with articles or letters for several months. But, like other losses that followed 9-11, Bauer's murders seemed quickly forgotten.

I had occasion to think of John Bauer again recently. We had wondered whether my wife's cousin – a senior partner at Cantor Fitzgerald – had either leapt from a window, burned, or died by crushing in the crash of the first World Trade Center tower. We just heard recently that they had found a part of him, and an autopsy determined that he had been asphyxiated. As has proven the case, also, with so many of the 4000 victims, the known facts of his last minutes – I'd never met him – were both inspirational and numbing. Working just above the contact point of the airliner, Steven Roach seems to have known enough of what was happening to call his wife and mother with last words – words that were quoted in a eulogy that year at St. Mary's, the small Massachusetts parish where, with his four sisters and brother, he'd taken his first communion. "Your father loved you," his children heard.

...the erstwhile president of Lakeshore hockey -- murdered his three children, wife, father-in-law, and a business associate in cold blood

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Bauer and Roach went out at opposite poles of what we regard as acceptable death. Roach at 36 earned millions of dollars a year. A scratch golfer, he belonged to several clubs in New Jersey and Florida, and he counted as friends both professional athletes and captains of industry. Bauer, it was said, took his life for shame. He had debts no honest man could pay.

Bauer's choice came to mind as I was rereading an essay by Arthur Miller (we finished *Death of a Salesman* in December). In "Tragedy and the Common Man," Miller submits that the life and death of "common" men like Willy

Loman can move us because, no matter the man's earnings, he will seldom "remain passive in the face of what he conceives to be a challenge to his dignity, his image of his rightful status." His indignant striving stirs us. If we admit as much, Bauer's striving to protect his family from his debt was tragic, however insane his final solution. None of us can know how difficult his last months must have been; in Miller's view, however, they were moving and enlightening, "for they point the heroic finger at the enemy of man's freedom."

My misgiving with Miller's formula is that our indignation as workers has become so common – the enemy of our freedom, involuntary unemployment, affecting almost 10% of the adult population – that there are many among us who have ceased to struggle. Bauer, for instance, gave up, and I wonder whether his death had any of the tragic resonance Miller speaks of.

After we finish reading either *Death of a Salesman* or *The Glass Menagerie*, both renditions of families rent asunder by impoverished parents, I often ask my students whether a sum of money could have solved the family's problems. Some think yes, others no. At first consideration it seems too reductive of the psychological complexity of this Miller's salesman to suggest that Willy Loman would not have killed himself, or Amanda Wingfield driven Tom to flee their St. Louis apartment, had the families been affluent. Yet the experience of many of our students is just this. The narrative of their home life is an argument about money, the walls whisper "more," and like the boy who kills himself in Lawrence's "The Rocking Horse Winner," they feel an influx of money would make their parents happy.

The utter despair that would lead a man to kill himself is inadmissible to Miller, who puts into the mouths of Willy's son Biff the insight – which we're meant to trust – "the man didn't know himself." And I submit that most English teachers are similarly committed to this more resilient, optimistic view of people. This view is that human beings are durable participants in the marketplace, that we work to live and not the reverse, that our motivations can be discerned through the close study of literary imagery, and that psychology is more accurate interpreter of human frailty than economics. In other words, fictional characters should never kill themselves – they're mistaken, they're tired, or they should talk to Dr. Hertzog. Even the harshly anti-capitalist story "Paul's Case," featuring a boy who rails against "the omnipotence of wealth" and can expect no better future than a living death of clerical drudgery, ends with the romantic lie that Paul, falling beneath a train, sees "with utter clarity the immensity of what he had left undone: the blue of Adriatic waters, the yellow of Algerian sands."

In the book of life, this rejection of Willy Loman, this romantic poetics, actually seems valid to me, but most of my friends and family enjoy full-time work they like, and most seem well-protected by a skein of friendships that would save them from Willy's death-wish. But as soon as I leave my circle of friends I have doubts. For one thing, our sense of failure is less acute in Canada than it is in the States, where men, especially, labour under the impression that their bankruptcy is a personal failure, their near-poverty a sin. As Will Rodgers once said, "It ain't a crime to be poor in America, but it may as well be." John Bauer was not American, but he may as well have been, for he seems to have fallen into Willy Loman's narrative – the story that he was worthless.

Socialistic as we may be here in Canada, Willy Loman's is still the story that a man hears when he lays down his head at night. So it passed that John Bauer, despite his incalculable wealth, counted himself too poor to live. My wife's cousin was luckier. Both men loved their families, but it seems to me immeasurably sad and capricious that we can lionize one – a terrific golfer, an outstanding provider – and not the other. Roach's death, we will say, was a great waste, but of the other man we will say nothing. In the vernacular of American success, Roach had it all, and he departed at the top of his game. John Bauer's story, by far the more common, is lost in silence.

-Mr. Patrick Shannon

SPORTS

Wrestling

ALTHOUGH A SMALL SPORT at Selwyn House, the Gryphon Wrestling team grows bigger and bigger each year; this year with a 19-man team. The season started on November 27th with the Omnium de Québec and ended on February 26th with the Provincial Championships. With Coach Rob Moore and seniors Ben Wilner and myself leading the team, the Selwyn Wrestling team came in 4th in the GMAA Tournament held on February 10th, 2005 with several semi-finalists and finalists. Also, Selwyn GMAA All-Stars Ben Wilner, myself (Chris Wong), Julien Dumont, Chris Desrosiers, Bryan Altman, Denis Smirnov and some others competed at the GMAA All-Star Meet at Loyola on January 25th, bringing home multiple All-Star titles. A season of incessant practice and training comes to an end with everyone performing very well throughout the whole season.

Personally, after being on the wrestling team for 4 seasons and a few days (from my elementary days) and finally graduating, it's going to be something I won't forget. The grunting, the smell of wrestling sweat, my team mates, my opponents, the knowledge, the instincts, the strategy, but above all, my coach and my experiences. Coach Moore guided my brother and me for eight years: eight hard sweating years of competition and experience building. He never missed a match, always gave the best advice possible and taught me the things that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Mr. Moore will be one of the best coaches I'll ever have. Wrestling taught me many things, the most important being that nothing comes without commitment. I'll definitely miss the Selwyn Wrestling team in the coming years, and the best of luck to them next year!

-Chris Wong

Champions League

AFTER NEARLY TWO MONTHS of no Champions League action, 8 much-anticipated games were played by 16 of Europe's most elite teams. To start off the knockout phase, underdogs Bayern Munich handed Arsenal a tough 3-1 loss, thanks to two goals by Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro. Other games played on February 22nd included a close match-up between Real Madrid and Juventus. Real-Madrid took the lead early and held on to win it 1-0. Liverpool beat German opponent Leverkusen by a score of 3-1. Monaco and PSV Eindhoven were engaged in the last match of the day, one that was clearly dominated from start to end by Eindhoven. Brazilian forward Alex gave them the lead only 8 minutes in, and they protected it for the rest of the game.

On the second day of competition, February 23rd, 8 others teams took to the field. Barcelona and Chelsea, both leaders of their national leagues, played a hard-fought game that ended to Barcelona's favor. Barcelona beat Chelsea, who were without their prolific striker Drogba for most of the second half, by a score of 2-1. Hernan Crespo and AC Milan spoiled Van Nistelrooy's return from injury by beating Manchester United 1-0. Another Italian team, Inter Milan, could not hold on to their lead and allowed FC Porto to come from behind and end the game in a tie. Finally, the lop-sided between Lyon and WErder Bremen took place in Germany, where the home team was crushed 3-0 by the Olympique Lyonnais' amazing display of offense.

- Mani Alaei

Italian Soccer

ITALIAN SOCCER, known as Serie A (A League) in Italy is my favourite kind of soccer to watch. The teams all have incredible players and this leads to some very interesting games. This year, the main teams to watch out for are Juventus, AC Milan, Inter Milan (Internazionale FC), US Citta di Palermo, and Messina Peloro FC.

FC Juventus

Has had an incredible season. After losing the division title last season due to some lack of performance on defence, the Bianconeri (black and whites) have made some crucial changes this year to prevent this from re-occurring. First off, they hired a new coach, Fabio Capello, and fired their old one, Marcello Lippi. Capello rearranged pretty much the entire defensive line to a group of players that is now compatible with the rest of the team. Their record this year is they've won 18 of 27 games played and lost 3. they tied the remaining 6. this record is enough to put them in first place tied with AC Milan.

AC Milan

AC has also had an interesting season. They managed to go their first three games of the season without getting a win, which isn't good for the defending champions of Serie A. Where as Juventus went up to their 10th game before their first loss. However, AC managed to pick up the pace and now they are tied in first place with Juventus and the race for the title is going to be very intense.

Internazionale FC

This team is usually one of the contenders for the Serie A title. However this year, they have managed something rather spectacular. They played a total of 26 games and only lost one! This is amazing. However they have also tied 16 of the remaining 25 games. Putting them in fourth place one point behind Sampdoria and one point ahead of Udinese.

US Citta di Palermo

Is one of two Sicilian teams in Serie A. It is this teams first season in Serie A and they are doing extremely well. They have measured up to some of the top teams in the league. They are currently tied for fifth place with Udinese. They won 11 games in the past 26 weeks, tied nine and lost six. This is very good for a team that has never before played in Serie A. they have proven that they are a team to be feared when on the field and that they are not to be taken lightly. When they first played against my personal favourite Juventus in their fourth Serie A game, Juventus had won every single game. Palermo played an amazing game and the match ended in a tie at one. Fans were going crazy because for a team as young as Palermo to tie with a team as big as Juventus is something rarely heard of in Italy.

Messina Peloro FC

Messina is another new addition to Serie A this year. They are also a Sicilian team and have been doing very well. They hadn't lost a game until their 6th week when they faced off against the Bianconeri (Juventus). They lost that game 2-1. However, before that magnificent game they played against other very strong teams and come out on top. Teams such as AC and Roma. Unfortunately, they had some bad luck after that and their position on the ladder doesn't reflect their ability. They are sitting in 13th place of 20 teams and are right between Livorno (below them) and Lazio (above them). of their 27 games played they won 8 tied 8 and lost 11. Which is still very good for a teams that is new to the competition of Serie A soccer.

Overall it has been a very exciting season so far and I look forward to the race for first between Juventus and AC although I have to say that Juventus have worked so hard this year and have been in first all season. I would hate to see them lose the lead now.

By: Francesco Sacco

Randy Moss an Oakland Raider?

THE NFL WAS SHOCKED to learn that Randy Moss was traded to the

Randy Moss was traded to the Oakland Raiders for Napoleon Harris and a first round draft pick.

Oakland Raiders for Napoleon

Harris and a first round draft pick. The all-pro wide receiver from Marshall University, the best receiver in the NFL was traded because of his distractions on and off the field finally wore out his welcome in Minnesota. There had been some speculation that Randy Moss would be traded for the last couple of weeks to either the Jets, Ravens or Raiders. He will officially become a Raider on March 2nd.

This trade comes one day after the Raiders re-signed their former number 1 receiver Jerry Porter to a 5 year 21 million dollar contract. Moss comes with Porter's blessing as he had encouraged the deal. Al Davis the owner of the Raiders is very supportive of this deal because he now has 2 big fast receivers and it favors the long passing game that he used in the 80's. This also makes it easier for quarterback Kerry Collins who can throw it up to any of the 2 receivers and know almost all the time they will both come up with the ball

The Raiders will certainly benefit from this trade unlike the Vikings. The Raiders certainly got the better of the trade because Randy Moss fits perfectly into the system and is always an impact player no matter what team he is on. He will always make a team and a quarterback better because of his superb skills and his monstrous athletic ability. An example of this is in the 2004 playoffs when he outran Al Harris of the Green Bay Packers on a bad ankle and out jumped him in the end zone. This shows how athletic he can be at times. The Minnesota Vikings do not benefit from this trade at all because Napoleon Harris has not really been what the Raiders have expected of him when he was chosen 25th overall in the 2002 draft. He has been disappointing and he joins a list of Minnesota linebackers E.J. Henderson and Dontarrious Thomas who have been like Harris. Minnesota's offense will struggle without Moss in the lineup because Culpepper's numbers were down when Moss went down with an injury last season. Culpepper can't play great football without Randy Moss. Without Moss the team played sloppy. The number 1 receiver now for the Vikings is Nate Burleson who played well especially at the end of the season because the opponent double-teamed Randy Moss leaving him in single coverage. With their 7th pick in the draft they will likely draft Mike Williams or Michigan star Braylon Edwards to replace Moss. With Mushin Muhammad already gone to the Bears their number 1 free agent pick would be receiver Derrick Mason who was recently cut by the Tennessee Titans. The Raiders will improve greatly but the Vikings will struggle mightily without Moss and they will probably fall short of the playoffs for the 2nd time in 3 years and the Raiders will make the playoffs for the first time since they got to the Super Bowl because of Randy Moss.

- Marco Melnychuk

The 2005 NBA All-Star Weekend

THE 2005 NBA ALL-STAR Weekend started off Friday February 18 with the rookies against the sophomores. This game was very fun to watch, especially because of the many alley-oops for both teams. The rookies led by six or seven points at the half. The coach for the sophomores did not like how the sophomores were playing. He was complaining that they were not trying hard. In the second half, the sophomores started working harder, which led to their 133-106 victory over the rookies. Emeka Okafor from the Charlotte Bobcats was unable to play for the rookie team because of a recent injury. Carmelo Anthony, from the Denver Nuggets, who played with the sophomores, won MVP honors at the end of the game. He scored 31 points throughout the game.

...three basketball players took shots from different spots on the court. The teams consisted of one NBA player, one WNBA and one legend NBA...

Saturday February 19 was, in my opinion, the best part of the entire weekend. The contest that took place in the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado was shooting stars; three basketball players took shots from different spots on the court. The teams consisted of one NBA player, one WNBA and one legend NBA player from that team. The next contest was the skills competition, which had some of the best point guards in the NBA go against in each through shooting, passing and dribbling skills. The third of four contests was the three-point shootout, which has some of the best three-point shooters go against each other. After one minute, the two players with the most points advance to the finals.

The most famous of these contests is, of course, the slam-dunk contest. The two players with the highest total score advance to the finals. For each of these contests a large sum of money is given to the winner. In the shooting stars contest, the Phoenix team won, completing all the shots in 28 seconds. For the skills contest, the Phoenix Suns' Steve Nash won, beating out Earl Boykins of the Denver Nuggets. Nash won, completing the contest in 25 seconds while Boykins completed it in 37 seconds. The three-point contest finals were between the Philadelphia 76ers' Kyle Korver and the Phoenix Suns' Quentin Richardson. Richardson won after sinking his last 9 shots including the 2-point ball at the last second. This helped Richardson beat out Korver 19-18. The slam-dunk competition included JR Smith and Chris Andersen of the New Orleans Hornets, Josh Smith of the Atlanta Hawks and Amare Stoudemire of the Phoenix Suns. Josh Smith and Amare Stoudemire advanced to the finals with a total of 95 points each. They beat out JR Smith with 90 points and Chris Andersen with 77. The three most amazing dunks of the night started with Josh Smith jumping over a chair from where Kenyon Martin tossed up the ball. Smith slammed it to the hoop. The next best dunk, Amare Stoudemire hit the ball off the backboard and, with the help of teammate Steve Nash – Nash using his soccer skills to hit it off his head and give Amare – an alley-oop. The third amazing dunk of the night was Josh Smith with a windmill dunk while wearing the jersey of his childhood idol, Dominique Wilkins, former star of the Atlanta Hawks. This dunk determined him as the winner of the slam-dunk contest.

Sunday night, where the East and the West played each other, was the worst part of the weekend, even though there were some good elements. There weren't many alley-oops like Friday night, just an annoying amount of turnovers. The starting lineup for the East included Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Iverson, Grant Hill, Vince Carter and LeBron James. The starting lineup for the West was Yao Ming, Tracy McGrady, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett. After a three-year losing streak, the East won 125-115. Allen Iverson, playing for the East, won MVP honors after having a great game with 15 points, 10 assists and five steals.

-Michael Cohen

Juvenile Basketball Team

THE SELWYN HOUSE juvenile basketball team this year went 0-6 in the first half of the season and blasted their way back with a 3-4 record in the second half. Although the season didn't go so well, the team was able to finish second in the LCC tournament and second in the Bishop's tournament. Despite finishing third in the Selwyn tournament, Selwyn House put on an exciting show as their consolation finals game went to overtime.

With the great coaching of Mr. Paoletti, the team gradually improved to a playoff contestant team.

The team this year had eight players that played in the midget basketball team the year before and seven new players. The team had some bad luck since one of our starting guards, Justin Kuzmicki, got injured and was forced to sit out for most of the season. So a rotation started with Stefan Luu (started the beginning of the season), Bronson Kiu (started the middle part of the season), and Sean Grover (started at the end of the season), which turned out very well. The other four starters were Phil Clark, David Friedman, Alex Henderson, and Brendan Munzar. The team worked very hard and gave their 100% in every game. With the great coaching of Mr. Paoletti, the team gradually improved to a playoff contestant team. The last season game with Lasalle Catholic High School decided which team would be going to the playoffs. As everybody already knows, the team lost in triple overtime and did not make the playoffs. Nonetheless, the juvenile team had a great time in their last basketball season ever at Selwyn House.

-Bronson Kiu

Spotlight: UNLV BASKETBALL

Rebel Homeward Bound

Junior center returns to native Canada for four exhibition games.

HE MAY have been born and raised in Montreal, but ice wasn't Joel Anthony's thing.

Yes, he liked hockey as much as the next kid and he watched and followed the NHL's Canadians. But when you're 15 years old and you grow six inches over the summer, getting outfitted for new skates and hockey equipment can be an expensive proposition.

So Anthony turned his attention to basketball. He left Montreal three years ago to attend Pensacola (Fla.) Junior College and now returns to Canada this weekend as a 6-foot-9-inch, 240-pound junior center for UNLV. The Rebels will be in the Vancouver, British Columbia, area to play four games beginning Saturday against Simon-Fraser.

'There's a lot of interest in basketball in Canada,' Anthony said. 'The sport is growing. The globalization of the game has a lot to do with it. Plus, we can watch the NBA every night on television.'

In terms of experience, Anthony is the youngest player in UNLV's program—this is only his fifth year in organized basketball. But he has been a quick learner and UNLV coach Lon Kruger is impressed with what, Anthony has shown in three days with his new team.

Anthony's ability to run the floor, block shots and rebound, along with his soft touch around the basket using a left handed jump hook, has made a positive impression.

'We're real excited about Joel,' Kruger said. 'He has a real hunger in him, and when you combine his size and ability, there's a lot to like.'

'He has a real good feel for the game. He just needs to play, and we'll give him that opportunity. We only have three big men. He's going to have to play.'

"There's a lot of interest in basketball in Canada,' Anthony said. 'The sport is growing. The globalization of the game has a lot to do with it. Plus, we can watch the NBA every night on television."

Anthony said the chance for playing time was a critical factor in his choosing UNLV. He knew the best way to improve was to gain experience.

'So far, it's been great,' he said. 'I'm learning so much. The guys have really been helping me and I think I'm picking things up quickly.'

'I came here to make an impact on the defensive end, block shots and get rebounds. I know what my role is going to be and that's fine. Coach Kruger can see my strengths.'

Anthony doesn't need the ball to be effective, which will probably cause teams to sag off him defensively and try to double-team someone else. If they do, Anthony's medium range jump shot or jump hook could be costly.

'I can score if I have to,' he said. 'I'm trying to be more fluid with my offence. I don't want to have to think about doing things. I want it to come naturally.'

Anthony had some offers to remain in Canada and play college basketball. But the chance to play the game at the highest level—and the fact Canadian colleges don't offer basketball scholarships—convinced him to head south.

'The teams in Canada are solid, but it's not the same level of basketball as here in the states,' he said. 'I wanted to play against the best competition. That's why I came here.'

Still, Anthony said he's looking forward to returning to his country and seeing Vancouver, a part of Canada he has yet to visit.

'It's not home, but it will be fun,' he said. 'I've been looking forward to the trip since I found out we were going.'

-Steve Carp

ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25TH, the Varsity Hockey team made their way to Lennoxville to face the BCS Crusaders (*TSN Flashback* Jan. 12th, 2005: Fortin knocks out a BCS player sending him to the hospital where he regained consciousness). This was our last game of the season, and for most (including me), the last of our Selwyn careers. It proved to be one of the best games the team has played this season. The match featured the predictable (Panzera forgot his jersey) and the unpredictable (Panzera scored 2 goals). In one of the fastest rinks we've ever played in (smooth ice but strange boards), a high score was guaranteed. The team played with a group of sometimes (mostly) loud and distracting fans standing behind the nets. The score was even for the entire game while no team held more than a 2-goal lead at any point during the first two periods. With the team down 4-3 at the end of the second period, Coach Mitchell rallied his team and challenged them to do more. Within a matter of minutes, the game was tied at 5 apiece. With the clock quickly winding down, Selwyn spent the last 3 minutes in the Bishop zone with both teams standing and the fans on the edge of their seats (figuratively of course, they didn't have seats, they had to stand, small rink). Then, a heroic goal by first-liner Mathew Shadley gave us the go-ahead goal with 41 seconds left. With just mere seconds remaining in the game, the Crusaders were pressing hard looking for the game-tying goal. However, after beating two forwards through the neutral zone, Phil Cutler dove to poke-check the puck away from their defenseman and right into the net. This gave us the insurance we needed and we left the season on a high note. The entire team put in an unprecedented effort and of course, the goalies were phenomenal. It was only fitting that our Selwyn careers ended with one of the most intense hockey games (NHL games included) in recent memory.

- Jon Shen

Box Score	
Selwyn House Gryphons	Bishop High School Crusaders
1st Period: Goal- Phil Cutler (132) 14:40 Goal- Eric Panzera (1) 9:58 Goal- Olivier Saleh (1) 5:34	1st Period: Goal- Really Tall Guy 13:22 Goal- Guy With Acne 6:01 Goal- Really Tall Guy again, trust me he's good 3:34
2nd Period: ----------	2nd Period: Goal- Some Random Guy 2:43
3rd Period: Goal- Niki Thorpe (6) 12:20 Goal- Eric Panzera (2) 6:05 Penalty- Olivier Saleh- Something only Saleh would do (he scored a goal so it doesn't matter) GOAL- Matthew Shadley (1) 0:41 GOAL- Phil Cutler (133) 0:14	3rd Period: Goal- Guy with Beard 10:41

* I didn't note any assists because I was to busy opening the door for the line changes and didn't have enough time…

ENTERTAINMENT

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"TO THAT PROVIDENCE, my sons, I hereby command you, and I counsel you by way of caution to forbear from crossing the moor in those dark hours when the powers of evil are exalted." The Hound of the Baskervilles, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is one of Sherlock Holmes' most famous, dangerous, and challenging cases. This fascinating mystery tests Mr. Holmes' deduction powers to the limit. The premise of the story is, "who killed Sir Charles, how and why?" The legend of the Baskervilles begins with the death of Hugo Baskerville, an older relative of Sir Charles. Dr. James Mortimer, the friend and doctor of Sir Charles, finally decides to approach the famous Mr. Sherlock Holmes with the mysterious case of Sir Charles' death. He reads out the legend from the year 1742, an article from a public newspaper, and tells him the private facts as well. The legend tells the story of Sir Hugo Baskerville who was found dead with a huge black beast, exhaling fire from its mouth, tearing his body apart. Now, we come upon the case of the mysterious death of Sir Charles perhaps related to this huge hellhound.

The BBC film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is closely linked to the novel due to several observations that highlight the accuracy of the film. If you have read the novel, while viewing the film you will quickly be able to recognize text coming directly from the book. You will also realize that most events from the book are repeated in the movie such as the stolen boots, the hound chasing Selden and Sir Henry, the relation between Mr. Stapleton and Mrs. Stapleton, and some other details as well. Most facts remain accurate. An example of this is the fact that the same person in the film owns the hound as did in the novel: the criminal.

...tells the story of Sir Hugo Baskerville who was found dead with a huge black beast, exhaling fire from its mouth, tearing his body apart.

While the BBC film carries some truth in recounting the story of The Hound of the Baskervilles, there are also some serious discrepancies between the film and the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. At the beginning of the movie, you will surely notice that there is a very different beginning than the one in the book.

The film starts with a court case while the book starts with the finding of Dr. Mortimer's stick. There are also some events that are added, such as when Mrs. Mortimer conjures up the spirits of the dead Sir Henry and Sir Charles. Some explanations are also altered, such as when Mr. Barrymore explains his visits to the window for the first time. The movie's ending too is changed a bit; it is made more violent.

In general, the movie is interesting and suspenseful, and has amazing costumes and props that respect the time period. However, there are many aspects that differentiate the novel from the film; most are good and make the film more exciting. The characters are well played. Though there are many excellent features to this movie, the audience may find the BBC film somewhat confusing. One event quickly leads to another

and not many explanations are given. When watching this film, make sure you are very attentive and follow the course of events. In summary, I believe this movie is worth seeing if you have not yet watched another production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". However, there are many different versions of this film that you could view instead, and you could just as well read the intriguing novel itself. If you do end up watching this movie and have not yet read the book, see if you can beat Sherlock Holmes in finding the culprit! Beware of the great black hellhound!

-Anna Cybulsky of The Study

What's On?

The O.C.:

THE O.C. left fans after season 1 full of emotion. It was as if they went into a full circle, leaving fans in disbelief awaiting the next season with major anticipation. People stood breath-taken by the season-ending wedding between Julie and Caleb. As season 2 began, the show left fans disappointed week after week.. An amazing twist was added to the show. Marissa is a lesbian. What?! That was my initial reaction after hearing the news. But I have to hand it to the producers; they have been handling the situation and controversy perfectly. It plays at 8PM on FOX every Thursday.

24:

This show has returned to its twists and nail-biting cliffhangers after a slightly above average third season. With the swapping of certain characters with others, the show has returned to its the great suspense and action that it first came out with. The whole season consists of 24 episodes in which every episode is one hour. They are all consecutive making the season one complete day. This season deals with the conflict between the American government and an Arab Terrorist Group. This spy/political show is both action-packed and dramatic all at once. It plays at 9PM on FOX every Monday.

Alias:

For most people who know me, they have probably heard of my obsession with Alias. This show is fantastic. This spy-themed show is full of action, cliffhangers, surprises, and great music all before the first commercial break. Alias has just entered its fourth season and is better than ever. Sydney Bristow (Jennifer Garner), the protagonist, is a spy who works for the CIA along with her father, Jack Bristow. This show is filled with action and suspense. Moments that will make you want more and more every week. Alias plays on ABC at 9PM every Wednesday.

Lost:

This new hit series, also created by J.J. Abrams (creator of Alias), is about survivors of a plane crash stranded on an unknown island. The survivors discover that on this island nothing is what it seems. Mysterious and dangerous occurrences keep these survivors agitated, suspicious and fearful of their surroundings. This show is full of drama and suspense. A great TV show to watch on Wednesdays. You can catch the action on ABC at 8PM.

The Law and Order Family:

This three TV show family is based on the relationship between New York City police detectives and the attorneys who prosecute the accused. The original Law and Order involves the investigation of crimes and the prosecution of suspects. Law and Order: Special Victims Unit involves the detectives who strictly investigate what they call "sex crimes." Law and Order: Criminal Intent offers an additional dimension by exposing major crimes from the criminal's perspective. The creator of these three shows, Dick Wolfe will be releasing a new show, Law and Order: Trial By Jury, which involves the story as viewed by the jury's perspective. It premieres in March. All three air on NBC. Law and Order airs Wednesday at 10PM, Law and Order: SVU airs at 10PM on Tuesday, and Law and Order: Criminal Intent airs at 9PM on Sunday.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation:

For me, this series has risen above its two other spin-offs: CSI: Miami and CSI: NY. Backed up by an amazing cast of actors such as William Petersen and Marg Helgenberger, this show now

...investigate what they call "sex crimes."

in its 5th season still finds a way to entertain the huge masses that tune in every week to watch the show. These crime solvers are part of the forensics department from the crime lab of Las Vegas. Day in and day out, these characters display their stories in formidable fashion and drama. This show airs every Thursday at 9PM on CBS.

Medium:

This brand new hit show starring Patricia Arquette is about a young wife and mother who, since childhood, has been struggling to make sense of her dreams and visions of dead people. It seems though that these dreams keep giving her the upper hand while she is cracking murder cases. Her life receives even more troubling news when she finds out that her daughter is also victim of these frightening dreams. Medium airs on Monday at 10PM on NBC.

-Gerald Kounadis

Temptation

Something you would want to stay away from.
Why? You ask?
Well, it could get you to do things you never imagined you could do.
I'm not talking about being tempted, to eat your third shortbread cookie.
I am talking about the kind of temptation that has the power to take over you, to do something that is beyond, not your imagination, but yourself.
It will make you do things beyond what you are capable of doing.
Beyond yourself.

It is neatly tucked in a dark corner of your mind.
At certain times, it would stay down low and wouldn't bother you.
At others, it will swarm your mind, and take over you,
Like an army taking over a country.
Once you're under the spell of temptation, it is hard to break it.

There is a possibility of breaking the spell.
It's pretty simple once you set your mind to it.

Once, I remember, that you succeeded at breaking the spell

You try to keep yourself distracted with more important things.
You succeed at shunning the feeling from your life,
Which gives you power to fight temptation.

Then, you start to unravel.
You start to realize what is good in life,
What you need to discard from your life.
Discarding those moments where you were helpless,
Fearful,
And lost within yourself,
Helps you clear everything away from your life.
Including those moments where you were tempted.

But then, you lose it.
You slowly start to go back.
You then keep on thinking that it is a wise decision
To go back to your grim life,
To go back to the times of being tempted to do things
Things so dreadful, that you could be killed for it.
Those were the times where you were in need,
When you needed someone to help you, but you did not want any help.

You are as stubborn as an old mule.
And the thing is, that will never change.

Your body, mind and soul can't take it anymore.
You start to crumble.

Then, you lose that power over temptation.
Once you lose that power…

Fight it.
You can fight it.
You can and will fight it.
Tell yourself that you can do it.
Convince yourself that you can fight temptation.

Once you have done that…the rest is easy.

-Adrianna Modaferri (grade 7 – The Study)